



Town of Arlington
Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Board of Health
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**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 31, 2018
BOH Conference Room – Mural Room
Arlington Senior Center
5:30pm**

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Marie Walsh Condon, Mr. Kenneth Kohlberg, Dr. Kevin Fallon

Staff in Attendance: Natasha Waden, Director of Public Health; Kylee Sullivan, Health Compliance Officer; Padraid Martin, Lead Health Compliance Officer; Jessica Kerr, Public Health Nurse

Others in Attendance: James Quinn, Ink Jam Tattoo

Recording Secretary: Laura Munsey, Health & Human Services Administrative Assistant

Meeting called to order by Dr. Marie Walsh Condon at 5:35 pm.

Upon review of the December 6, 2017 meeting minutes, Mr. Kenneth Kohlberg requested minor editorial changes, (not affecting content) to the Draft Regulations Restricting the Sale of Tobacco and Nicotine Delivery Products – Section (E)13 and 14. This item will be tabled until the April 11, 2018 meeting for review as an agenda item.

A motion was made by Dr. Kevin Fallon, which was seconded by Mr. Kenneth Kohlberg to accept the December 6, 2017 meeting minutes as amended.

Vote: 3-0 in favor of the motion (Unanimous)

Update: Plastic Bag Ban

Inspector Martin informed the Board that the Plastic Bag Ban in Arlington will begin on March 1, 2018 for 10,000 Square Foot retailers and on July 1, 2018, for all other retailers. He stated notices have gone out, and the Health Department has met with each of the 10,000 square foot retailers regarding this implementation. The first week in February flyers will go out to retailers, and social media posts, and other methods of notification will go out to the public. Inspector Martin informed the Board that inspections will begin on March 1st, and reinspections will follow in April. A similar schedule will be implemented for the retailers with the July 1st start date.

Correspondence Received: Tattoo Apprentice

Mr. James Quinn, Owner of Ink Jam Tattoo Studio was invited to address the Board regarding his request that the Board of Health offer a Body Art Apprentice permit within the regulations. Inspector Sullivan informed the Board that under the Town's current regulations, permits are issued to establishments and practitioners only. Practitioners require 2 years experience before being granted a permit. She further stated that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has model regulations for establishments and practitioners, however not for apprentices. Mr. Quinn provided copies of three (3) communities that do offer Apprentice permits, including Cambridge, Medford, and Lowell. Inspector Sullivan also stated that she has had an opportunity to review those regulations, and feels confident that Arlington could incorporate language within the Regulations if the Board so requested.

Director Waden informed the Board that Mr. Quinn manages an extremely well run business that has been in town for 12 years and it is apparent that cleanliness and safety are top priorities. She further stated Mr. Quinn meets and exceeds the procedures and guidelines referenced in the current regulations. Director Waden informed the Board that Mr. Quinn approached the Board and made a similar request for a Body Art Apprentice Permit in 2006, at which time the Board agreed to take the matter under consideration for future action.

Mr. Quinn stated that Arlington sets high standards, and he is proud of that. He stated he is addressing the Board, because he would like to hire an apprentice, Ms. Ismini Vocas, at his establishment. He stated body art is a practice taught through mentors, and he learned his craft from many wonderful individuals in the field.

The Board informed Mr. Quinn of options available including requesting a possible variance for his establishment, and/or request a revision to the existing regulations to include an apprentice permit license. It was agreed that Mr. Quinn will work with the staff at the Health Department, and present a formal request at the April 11, 2018 Board of Health Meeting.

Annual Report

Inspector Martin shared the following highlights of the 2017 Annual Report including:

- The Health Department cosponsored two (2) animal rabies vaccination clinics with Animal Control
- Staff investigated fourteen (14) food complaints and held five (5) administrative meetings to discuss food safety issues
- Twenty (20) new food establishments opened or changed ownership, including four (4) residential kitchens, and thirteen (13) establishments closed.
- Staff conducted 160 housing inspections, condemned two (2) properties and referred five (5) cases to the Attorney General's Abandoned Housing Initiative Program.
- The Hoarding Response Team received eighteen (18) referrals and identified five (5) new hoarding cases, while conducting follow-up on eight (8) ongoing cases.
- The Health Department issued 428 Permits
- The Health Department conducted 1,105 Inspections

Public Health Nurse, Jessica Kerr, reported 269 Communicable Diseases have been investigated and monitored.

Environmental Updates

Inspector Martin informed the Board that members of the Health Department have met with Charlotte Milan, and will provide a copy of the Draft Dumpster Regulations to the Board for review and discussion at the April 11, 2018 Meeting.

Retail Food Standards

Director Waden updated the Board on the progress made regarding the AFTO Grant Retail Food Standards 1, 3, and 4. She stated the Department will be in compliance with standards 1 and 3 by the end of April, and are well on the way to full compliance with Standard 4. Because the Board has agreed to adopt the 2013 Food Code, the Department filed for an extension for Standard 4.

Housing

The Health Department filed a criminal complaint regarding 1530 Massachusetts Avenue, which has been Condemned by the Board of Health. Since that filing, much progress has been made on the exterior of the property and the owner is moving forward towards compliance in the interior.

Additional abandoned properties have been forwarded to the Attorney General's Abandoned Housing Initiative Program.

Director Waden informed the Board that the resources made possible through the Attorney General's Abandoned Housing Initiative have been extremely beneficial to the Town, and it has proven to be a great and valuable partnership.

Restaurant Updates

Inspector Martin informed the Board of nine (9) permitted food establishment closures including:

- Arlington Food Pantry (closed the Marathon Street location)
- 2 Establishments at the Local Fare closed: Boston Bonbon and Awake Nitro Brewing
- 2 Residential Kitchens closed: Bobbies Additions, Pingping, and Poppy & Ma's
- Dearborn Academy (moved to Newton)
- La Posada (Closed)
- Bistro Duet (Closed)

New additions at the Local Fare include:

- Mass Hole Donuts
- Beacon Blend

Plan reviews received for:

- Little Joes (Change of Ownership)
- Arlington Liquors (Change of Ownership)
- 478 Mass Ave
- Brit Bakery (at the Local Fare)

Public Health Nurse Updates

Nurse Kerr informed the Board that it has been an extremely active flu season, and Arlington has 38 “Confirmed” cases of the flu including 2 children. She reported the Health Department has vaccinated over 1,250 residents, and has been offering flu vaccination appointments to residents at the Health Office, which has generated an additional 60 vaccinations administered in the past 2 weeks.

Nurse Kerr updated the Board on 1 isolated case of MRSA at Arlington High School, and stated best practices were followed, and this matter was handled well.

Public Comment

None

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm